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The capital is Bogota.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; January 6, Epiphany; March 19, St. Joseph; Maundy Thursday; Good Friday; May 1, Labor Day; Ascension Day; May 23, Corpus Christi; June 29, St. Peter and St. Paul; July 20, Independence Day; August 7, Boyaca Battle; August 15, Assumption; October 12, Columbus Day; November 1, All Saints' Day; November 11, Cartagena Independence Day; December 8, Immaculate Conception; and December 25, Christmas Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on textiles, food processing, oil, clothing, footwear, beverages, chemicals, metals, cement, gold mining, coal, emeralds, iron, nickel, silver, and salt.

Languages

The official language of Colombia is Spanish.

Regulations

Masters of vessels, within the territorial waters of Colombia, are liable to heavy fines, seizure of vessel, or cancellation of licenses for the following offenses:

1. Failure to obey the orders of competent authorities regarding arrival and departure of Colombian ports.
2. Mooring at piers, river banks, or off beaches where this is prohibited by the authorities.
3. Altering their port of destination without permission.
4. Unjustifiable delay on passage between two ports.

General

Colombia is located in the N part of South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Panama and Venezuela and bordering the North Pacific Ocean between Ecuador and Panama.

The climate is tropical along the coast and E plains. It is cooler in the highlands.

The terrain is flat coastal lowlands, central highlands by the high Andes Mountains, and lowland E plains.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Colombia peso, consisting of 100 centavos.

Government

Colombia is a republic with the executive branch dominating the government structure. There are 32 departments.

5. Embarking or disembarking unauthorized cargo or passengers.

6. Failure to comply with instructions from military, naval, police, customs, or port authorities.

7. Failure to comply with the regulations of the competent authorities in force for maritime and river traffic.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ROMEO (+5).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Calle 22D-BIS, Nos. 47-51,
The mailing address is APO AA 34038.